



**DATE: September 20, 2016**

**TO: Community Partners and Grant Recipients**

**RE: FY18 Metro Arts Grants Guidelines**

**FROM: Jen Cole, Executive Director and Rebecca Berrios, Director of Community Engagement**

We are excited to announce the release of Metro Arts' FY18 Grants Guidelines. Our agency has a nearly 40-year legacy of serving the Nashville community by providing financial support for arts programming and arts nonprofits. Revisions to this program were needed so that we may better serve our changing city. These guidelines are a result of 16 months of research on best practices, learning from peer cities, focus group feedback, and alignment with our long-term strategic plan. The grants program has been aligned with other funding sources to collectively serve as a Community Investment Portfolio that also includes THRIVE (a micro-funding program for artists and neighborhood-based community art) and Tennessee Arts Commission's Arts Build Community program (of which we serve as the designated agency to administer annually). Each fulfill a different, important need within Nashville's arts eco-system and work together to create a range of support for individual artists to large nonprofit cultural institutions. This work speaks to our vision that all Nashvillians have the opportunity to participate in a creative life.

The new guidelines make provisions for our program to support arts accessibility, equity practices, organizational capacity, and more.

Metro Arts has scheduled two public forums for you to come ask questions and discuss the FY18 Guidelines in detail. Dates, times, and locations are listed below. Please RSVP to Laurel Fisher at [laurel.fisher@nashville.gov](mailto:laurel.fisher@nashville.gov) if you plan to attend. We look forward to your comments and feedback.

**Thursday, October 6, 2016**

10:00AM – 11:00AM

Sonny West Conference Center

Howard Office Building

**Wednesday, October 26, 2016**

10:00AM – 11:00AM

Nashville Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Metro Office Building